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EXAMINER

MCLEAN, NEIL R

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/815,153	Applicant(s) KONNO, MICHIAKI	
	Examiner Neil R. McLean	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/14/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In claim 5, a 'computer program' is being recited; however, computer program would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art as software, per se. This subject matter is not limited to that which falls within a statutory category of invention because it is limited to a process, machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter. Software is a function descriptive material and a function descriptive material is non-statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 19-22 recite the limitation "The storage medium of claim 17". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Note: For purposes of Examining this application the Examiner will examine Claims 19-22 as if they depended on Independent Claim 18 which recites 'A storage medium'.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5.. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (US 6,529,956).

Regarding Claim 1:

Smith et al. discloses a method of delivering printed documents comprising:

inputting a name of a destination user (**FIG. 1 is a block diagram which depicts a binary file delivery system 10a using one binary file server 12. The binary file delivery system 10a allows users to push documents, enabling the producer of documents to direct where those documents will go as described in Column 3, lines 40-47.)**

inputting a network address corresponding to the name of the destination user
(One way that the binary file delivery system 10a achieves push-publishing is by combining HTTP, which is usually implemented to pull information over a network as described in Column 3, lines 40-47.)

a reference step to select an image forming apparatus based upon information selected from the group comprising the name and the mail address **(An endpoint is typically a recipient 22 with Internet access, but can also be another entity, such as a facsimile machine 172 or a printer 178 (FIGS. 14, 15) as described in Column 3, lines 63-65)**

a distribution step to deliver the electronic data to the image forming apparatus selected by the reference step **(FIG. 19 illustrates how a document can be sent by the department gateway 202 of a dedicated corporate BFD server 200 through a LAN 204 to a department printer 178.)**

Regarding Claim 2:

Smith et al. discloses the method of delivering printed documents of claim 1 comprising setting up a lock code **(While the binary file delivery system 10a offers the flexibility to support specialized security solutions, it readily supports current industry-standard security solutions as described in Column 5, lines 40-59).**

Regarding Claim 3:

Smith et al. discloses the method of delivering printed documents of claim 1 comprising setting up sending a notification mail which notifies that the electronic data has been transmitted to the mail address inputted at the mail address inputting step when delivering the electronic data to the selected image forming apparatus **(The notifier 66 is used to handle E-mail notification 20 (FIG. 2) to the recipient 22. The forwarder 58 (FIG. 10) is used to forward store items 48 (FIG. 4) to other servers 12a-n (FIG. 2), using a server connector 80 (FIG. 7). Since not all E-mail notifications may be received, an E-mail scanner is used to check the server mail account for "returned" E-mail, and then to match it with the failed transaction as described in Column 7, lines 29-36; (An endpoint is typically a recipient 22 with Internet access, but can also be another entity, such as a facsimile machine 172 or a printer 178 (FIGS. 14, 15) as described in Column 3, lines 63-65).**

Regarding Claim 4:

Smith et al. discloses a printing program which delivers electronic data for printing, the program comprising

a function to input a name of a destination user to which a printed document from the electronic data is to be delivered **(FIG. 1 is a block diagram which depicts a binary file delivery system 10a using one binary file server 12. The binary file delivery system 10a allows users to push documents, enabling the producer of documents to direct where those documents will go as described in Column 3, lines 40-47.)**

a function to input a network address corresponding to the name of the destination user **(One way that the binary file delivery system 10a achieves push-publishing is by combining HTTP, which is usually implemented to pull information over a network as described in Column 3, lines 40-47.)**

a function to select an image forming apparatus from information selected from the group comprising the name or the mail address **(An endpoint is typically a recipient 22 with Internet access, but can also be another entity, such as a facsimile machine 172 or a printer 178 (FIGS. 14, 15) as described in Column 3, lines 63-65)**

a function which delivers the electronic data to the selected image forming apparatus **(FIG. 19 illustrates how a document can be sent by the department gateway 202 of a dedicated corporate BFD server 200 through a LAN 204 to a department printer 178.)**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 5-7, 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. in view of Wurmfeld (US 2001/0035972).

Regarding Claim 5:

Smith et al. discloses a method of delivering printed documents, the method comprising

receiving information about a print job to be printed, wherein the information identifies a user to receive a printed documents from the print job **(FIG. 1 is a block diagram which depicts a binary file delivery system 10a using one binary file server 12. The binary file delivery system 10a allows users to push documents, enabling the producer of documents to direct where those documents will go as described in Column 3, lines 40-47.)**

directing the print job to the selected image forming apparatus **(FIG. 19 illustrates how a document can be sent by the department gateway 202 of a dedicated corporate BFD server 200 through a LAN 204 to a department printer 178.)**

Smith does not disclose expressly wherein
selecting an image forming apparatus based upon information about the identified user, wherein the selection is made from a search of database, wherein the database associates plural image forming apparatuses with plural users

Wurmfeld discloses selecting an image forming apparatus based upon information about the identified user, wherein the selection is made from a search of database, wherein the database associates plural image forming apparatuses with

plural users (In a representative embodiment, an adaptive interface in accordance with the present invention is implemented by means of a computer and comprises means for establishing a user's identity (e.g., a badge reader, keypad or touch-screen display through which the user enters an identifier); a database for storing user characteristics; means for causing display (e.g., on a CRT display having touch-screen capability) of a plurality of interface components, which include a representation of at least one available system resource, based on the user characteristics stored in the database; and means for receiving user commands affecting at least one displayed resource. Most simply, the database includes a field somehow categorizing the user, and the interface generates and displays graphical representations of the system resources most likely to be of use as described in [0011, lines 1-12) and Also connected to network 165 are a series of resources to which system 100 (and, therefore, a user of system 100) has access. These may include a series of document scanners representatively indicated at 170.sub.1, 170.sub.2; a series of high-speed, high-capacity laser printers representatively indicated at 172.sub.1, 172.sub.2; a file server 175, which contains high-capacity mass storage; and a mail server 177, which transmits text and documents to other network-connected machines as e-mail as described in [0035], lines 1-9).

Smith & Wurmfeld are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing. e.g., both references disclose network printing system and/or methods..

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to prepare a list of image forming apparatuses base on information about the identified user.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so is by transferring supervisory responsibility for a print job to a computer and execution responsibility for input and output to distributed, dedicated devices, new capabilities, as well as substantial efficiencies, can be realized. A user may have access to any of multiple print servers, all of which maintain status information concerning the system's scanners and printers. Accordingly, the user need not await the availability of a central photocopier; instead, she is free to determine, via the print server, which scanner and which printer have the smallest backlog, or which are most conveniently located. In effect, the printers and scanners can be collectively utilized as a non-stop production printing environment as disclosed by Wurmfeld [0005].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the Wurmfelds user information with respect to the available resources in a manner that is easily recognized by the user with Smith's directed document delivery system to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

Regarding Claim 6:

Smith further discloses the method of directing print jobs of claim 5 wherein the information comprises the print job **(FIG. 19 illustrates how a document can be sent by the department gateway 202 of a dedicated corporate BFD server 200 through**

a LAN 204 to a department printer 178.)

Regarding Claim 7:

Smith further discloses the method of directing print jobs of claim 5 further comprising, after the selecting step and before the directing step, requesting confirmation of the selected image forming apparatus and receiving a confirmation of the selected image forming apparatus **(The notifier 66 is used to handle E-mail notification 20 (FIG. 2) to the recipient 22. The forwarder 58 (FIG. 10) is used to forward store items 48 (FIG. 4) to other servers 12a-n (FIG. 2), using a server connector 80 (FIG. 7). Since not all E-mail notifications may be received, an E-mail scanner is used to check the server mail account for "returned" E-mail, and then to match it with the failed transaction as described in Column 7, lines 29-36; (An endpoint is typically a recipient 22 with Internet access, but can also be another entity, such as a facsimile machine 172 or a printer 178 (FIGS. 14, 15) as described in Column 3, lines 63-65).**

Regarding Claim 9:

Smith further discloses the method of directing print jobs of claim 5 further comprising notifying the selected user of the print job **(PURLs are temporary, dynamically generated uniform resource locators which uniquely identify the intended recipient of a document and the document itself, as well attributes associated with the delivery of a document. PURLs avoid attaching information to**

e-mail messages to send documents, but rather attach a general reference to a document to be sent, and then enable the recipient to access a document via the reference as described in Column 15, lines 22-29) and (Account and transaction management provides no value unless sophisticated means of reporting are provided, For example, users 16 can be provided with a full report of a given transaction, including such information as which documents were delivered to whom, how many users have confirmed delivery of the document, or for billing purposes, the costs associated with the transaction as described in Column 12, lines 29-35).

Note: The Examiner perceives the selected user to be the recipient.

Regarding Claim 10:

Smith et al. further discloses the method of directing print jobs of claim 9 wherein the notifying comprises sending a message to the user with information identifying the selected image forming apparatus (**Account and transaction management provides no value unless sophisticated means of reporting are provided, For example, users 16 can be provided with a full report of a given transaction, including such information as which documents were delivered to whom, how many users have confirmed delivery of the document, or for billing purposes, the costs associated with the transaction as described in Column 12).**

Regarding Claim 11:

Smith et al. further discloses the method of directing print jobs of claim 5 further comprising including a tracking identifier **(FIG. 20 is a block diagram which depicts a document delivery system that includes private, trackable URLs for directed document delivery according to the invention as discloses in Column 15, lines 42-44.)** in the print job for identifying a printed document corresponding to the print job.

9. Claims 8, and 12-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith and Wurmfeld as applied to claims 5 above, and further in view of Ochiai et al. (US 7,237,015)

Regarding Claim 8:

Smith further discloses after the selection step, requesting selection of one of the image forming apparatuses from the list **(FIG. 19 illustrates how a document can be sent by the department gateway 202 of a dedicated corporate BFD server 200 through a LAN 204 to a department printer 178.)**

Smith and Wurmfeld do not disclose expressly wherein
in the selecting step, preparing a list of image forming apparatuses from the database, the list ranking the listed image forming apparatuses based upon the proximity of the listed image forming apparatuses to the identified user.

Ochiai et al. discloses in the selecting step, preparing a list of image forming apparatuses from the database **(FIG. 33 is a flow chart illustrating a registration process from a client to a server.)**, the list ranking the listed image forming

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apparatuses based upon the proximity of the listed image forming apparatuses to the identified user **(According to an embodiment of the invention, in a network system having a server, a client and a plurality of devices, the server manages a directory database registering a plurality set of attribute information corresponding to devices on the network, and in response to a search request from the client, searches a device from the directory database, and transmits a search result to the client as described in Column 1, lines 42-53).**

Smith, Wurmfeld & Ochiai are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing. e.g., all references disclose network printing system and/or methods..

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to prepare a list of image forming apparatuses base on it's proximity to the user.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so is to print to the closest printer to the user. Networked printers can be on different floors, different buildings and in different locations so it would be desirable to print to a printer that is close to the user.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ochiai's location information of each device in a manner that is easily recognized by the user with Smith's and Wurmfelds directed document delviery system to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

Regarding Claim 12:

Smith et al. discloses a method of delivering printed documents, the method comprising

receiving information about a print job to be printed, wherein the information identifies a user to receive the print job (**FIG. 1 is a block diagram which depicts a binary file delivery system 10a using one binary file server 12. The binary file delivery system 10a allows users to push documents, enabling the producer of documents to direct where those documents will go. One way that the binary file delivery system 10a achieves push-publishing is by combining HTTP, which is usually implemented to pull information over a network as described in Column 3, lines 40-47.)**

obtaining a network address of the identified user (**One way that the binary file delivery system 10a achieves push-publishing is by combining HTTP, which is usually implemented to pull information over a network as described in Column 3, lines 40-47.)**

selecting at least one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses having a network address closest to the network address of the identified user

directing the print job to the selected image forming apparatus (**e.g., FIG. 19 illustrates how a document can be sent by the department gateway of a dedicated corporate server through a LAN to a department printer).**

Smith and Wurmfeld do not disclose expressly wherein
selecting at least one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses having a
network address closest to the network address of the identified user

Ochiai et al. discloses selecting at least one of a plurality of image forming
apparatuses having a network address closest to the network address of the identified
user **(FIG. 33 is a flow chart illustrating a registration process from a client to a
server.) and (According to an embodiment of the invention, in a network system
having a server, a client and a plurality of devices, the server manages a directory
database registering a plurality set of attribute information corresponding to
devices on the network, and in response to a search request from the client,
searches a device from the directory database, and transmits a search result to
the client as described in Column 1, lines 42-53).**

Smith, Wurmfeld & Ochiai are combinable because they are from the same field
of endeavor of image processing. e.g., all references disclose network printing system
and/or methods..

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary
skill in the art to prepare a list of image forming apparatuses base on it's proximity to the
user.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so is to print to the closest printer to the
user. Networked printers can be on different floors, different buildings and in different
locations so it would be desirable to print to a printer that is close to the user.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ochiai's location information of each device in a manner that is easily recognized by the user with Smith's and Wurmfelds directed document delivery system to obtain the invention as specified in claim 12.

Note: The Examiner perceives finding the closest image forming apparatus the equivalent of finding the closest network address.

Regarding Claim 13:

Smith further discloses the method of delivering printed documents of claim 12 wherein the information comprises the print job (**e.g., FIG. 19 illustrates how a document can be sent by the department gateway of a dedicated corporate server through a LAN to a department printer**).

Regarding Claim 14:

Smith further discloses the method of delivering printed documents, of claim 12 further comprising, after the selecting step and before the directing step, requesting confirmation of the selected image forming apparatus and receiving a confirmation of the selected image forming apparatus (**The notifier 66 is used to handle E-mail notification 20 (FIG. 2) to the recipient 22. The forwarder 58 (FIG. 10) is used to forward store items 48 (FIG. 4) to other servers 12a-n (FIG. 2), using a server connector 80 (FIG. 7). Since not all E-mail notifications may be received, an E-mail**

scanner is used to check the server mail account for "returned" E-mail, and then to match it with the failed transaction as described in Column 7, lines 29-36; (An endpoint is typically a recipient 22 with Internet access, but can also be another entity, such as a facsimile machine 172 or a printer 178 (FIGS. 14, 15) as described in Column 3, lines 63-65).

Regarding Claim 15:

The method of delivering printed documents of claim 12 wherein the selecting step further includes searching a database, wherein the database associates plural image forming apparatuses having respective network addresses.

Smith and Wurmfeld do not disclose expressly wherein selecting step further includes searching a database, wherein the database associates plural image forming apparatuses having respective network addresses.

Ochiai et al. discloses selecting step further includes searching a database, wherein the database associates plural image forming apparatuses having respective network addresses.

(FIG. 33 is a flow chart illustrating a registration process from a client to a server.) and (According to an embodiment of the invention, in a network system having a server, a client and a plurality of devices, the server manages a directory database registering a plurality set of attribute information corresponding to devices on the network, and in response to a search request from the client,

searches a device from the directory database, and transmits a search result to the client as described in Column 1, lines 42-53).

Smith, Wurmfeld & Ochiai are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing. e.g., all references disclose network printing system and/or methods..

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to prepare a list of image forming apparatuses base on it's proximity to the user and to retain this information in a database.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so is to print to the closest printer to the user. Networked printers can be on different floors, different buildings and in different locations so it would be desirable to print to a printer that is close to the user.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ochiai's location information of each device in a manner that is easily recognized by the user with Smith's and Wurmfelds directed document delivery system to obtain the invention as specified in claim 15.

Regarding Claim 16:

The method of delivering printed documents of claim 12 further comprising in the selecting step, preparing a list of image forming apparatuses, the list ranking the listed image forming apparatuses based upon the proximity of the listed image forming apparatuses to the identified user after the selecting step, requesting selection of one of the image forming apparatuses from the list.

Please see the rejection of Claim 15.

Regarding Claim 17:

The method of delivering printed documents of claim 12 wherein the network addresses comprises an IP address closeness is determined based upon identity of subnets in the network addresses and closeness of host portions of the network addresses.

Please see the rejection of Claim 15.

Note: Storage media Claims 18-23 are rejected for the same reason disclosed above in similar claims 1-17.

Regarding Claim 18:

A storage medium comprising
a database stored on the storage medium which associates plural image forming apparatuses with plural users based upon proximity between the users and the image forming apparatuses
instructions stored on the storage medium which when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform actions comprising

receiving information about a print job to be printed, wherein the information identifies a user to receive a printed document from the print job

selecting one of the image forming apparatuses based upon information about the identified user

directing the print job to the selected image forming apparatus

Regarding Claim 19:

The storage medium of claim 17 wherein the information comprises the print job

Regarding Claim 20:

The storage medium of claim 17 further comprising instructions stored on the storage medium which when executed by the processor cause the processor to perform actions comprising requesting confirmation of the selected image forming apparatus and receiving a confirmation of the selected image forming apparatus

Regarding Claim 21:

The storage medium of claim 17 further comprising instructions stored on the storage medium which when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform actions comprising

preparing a list of image forming apparatuses from the database, the list ranking the listed image forming apparatuses based upon the proximity of the listed image forming apparatuses to the identified user

requesting selection of one of the image forming apparatuses from the list.

Regarding Claim 22:

A workstation comprising the storage medium of claim 17.

Regarding Claim 23:

A storage medium comprising
instructions stored on the storage medium which when executed by a processor
cause the processor to perform actions comprising
receiving information about a print job to be printed, wherein the information
identifies a user to receive the print job
obtaining a network address of the identified user
selecting at least one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses having a
network address closest to the network address of the identified user
directing the print job to the selected image forming apparatus.

Regarding Claim 24:

The storage medium of claim 23 wherein the information comprises the print job

Regarding Claim 25:

The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising instructions stored on the
storage medium which when executed by the processor cause the processor to perform

actions comprising requesting confirmation of the selected image forming apparatus and receiving a confirmation of the selected image forming apparatus

Regarding Claim 26:

The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising instructions stored on the storage medium which when executed by the processor cause the processor to perform actions comprising

preparing a list of image forming apparatuses, the list ranking the listed image forming apparatuses based upon the proximity of the listed image forming apparatuses to the identified user

requesting selection of one of the image forming apparatuses from the list.

Regarding Claim 27:

A workstation comprising the storage medium of claim 23.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Noble et al. (US 7,185,066) discloses a system for sharing computer data between two or more sharing partners.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neil R. McLean whose telephone number is (571)270-1679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30AM-5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571.272.7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Neil R. McLean/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625
3/11/2008

/Gabriel I Garcia/

Acting SPE of Art Unit 2625

